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Filed December 21, 2000
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REMARKS

I. Status of Claims.

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 31, 2004. Claims 1-16 are presently pending. Claims 9-13 and 15 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicants specifically reserve the right to present the subject matter contained in claims 9-13 and 15 in a continued application.

II. Amendment to Claim 14.

Claim 14 has been amended to place the claim in better form for allowance. Claim 14 has not been amended for reasons of prior art.

III. Objection to Oath or Declaration.

Applicants submitted an oath and declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67 (a), on January 13, 2003. The Examiner objected to this newly submitted oath and declaration as containing non-initialed and/or non-dated alterations. Applicants have attached to this response a newly executed oath and declaration in compliance with 37 CFR 1.67 (a). Applicants respectfully submit that this objection has been overcome.

IV. Claims 9-13 and 15 Rejected under 35 USC 112 first paragraph.

The Examiner rejected claims 9-13 and 15 under 35 USC 112, first paragraph stating that the specification does not enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make an/or use the invention commensurate in scope with these

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claims. Applicants respectfully submit that the specification enables the subject matter in the claims 9-13 and 15 that were rejected by the Examiner, however, in order to move this instant application to allowance Applicants have cancelled these rejected claims. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present the rejected subject matter in a continued application.

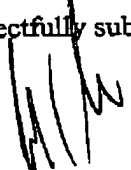
V. Allowable Subject Matter.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-8, 14 and 16 are free of prior art. Applicants thank the Examiner for her diligence in the examination of the instant application and respectfully request that claims 1-8, 14 and 16 be allowed.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully request expeditious consideration and passage of the present application to issuance. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned if she believes such would facilitate prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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